

parents teach their children the meaning behind the color of their skin, to stay on the right side of the system, and to face a world that fears our physique. Despite centuries of challenges, Black parents have raised children who grew into the workers, professionals, parents, and communities who made this wonderful Nation what it is.

Black Resistance has helped us overcome barriers on the path to equality; yet recently, it seems that more obstacles arise with each hurdle we surmount. Instead of moving forward, it sometimes feels like we are stuck in an ongoing cycle of one-step-forward-two-steps-back. Black students in Chicago and across the nation are disproportionately likely to attend underfunded schools that lack resources and qualified teachers. This inequity often results in decreased academic achievement and diminished opportunities for success. Black parents must advise their children how to navigate the centuries-old barriers facing African Americans and hope the world doesn't take their babies from them. Too many Black mothers in the United States suffer from the agony of knowing that their child's last words were a call for them while being killed by the police. Further, some Republican leaders are aggressively pushing to eliminate the teaching of African-American history in classrooms, promising to exacerbate the ongoing education crisis and forcing the country to move backward instead of forward. Without education on the various accomplishments and failings of the past, future generations will be unprepared for the challenges ahead due to the lost lessons of history.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., recognized that "the arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice." Regardless of the obstacles encountered, the Black community has a long, cultural tradition of activism and advocacy, and this Black Resistance advances the fight for justice and equality that Dr. King spoke of. In honor of Black History Month, I organized a town hall gathering to recognize the historical heroes and heroines, those from the past who have shaped our world and those from the present who are paving the path for future sheroes and heroes. The event occurred on Sunday, February 19, 2023, at the Home of Life Missionary Baptist Church. During this event, I heard from residents about what policies on which they believe Congress should focus to continue bending the arc of the moral universe toward justice.

As we celebrate the 23rd Black History Month, I am reminded of Sam Cooke's hope: "It's been a long . . . time coming, but I know a change gonna come. Oh yes, it will." I have seen Black Resistance bring about such wonderful change in my lifetime. I am proud to celebrate this success, and I promise to continue fighting for equality and opportunity at every turn. Change is gonna come.

RECOGNIZING EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIAN VERA DEACON

HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 24, 2023

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding constituent from my district. Vera Deacon, who after graduating

from the Abington Senior High School studied medical sciences at Penn State University and then obtained her license as a registered nurse at the Abington Hospital School of Nursing in 1977.

Vera served the community as an Emergency Department nurse at Abington Hospital and then Lehigh Valley Hospital and St. Luke's Hospital where she transitioned into the role of a PICC nurse and vascular access educator. As a driven patient advocate throughout her career, Vera participated in the reviews of PICC line device failures, efficacy, and the effects of short and long-term placements. As a CRNI and expert in the field, she has published several medical journal articles related to the elimination of infections in complex patient populations, and the Safe Medical Devices Act and its impact on clinical practice.

Missing the intensely challenging patient care opportunities of the hospital Emergency Department, Vera joined the Springtown Volunteer Fire Company to provide rescue services to her home community and was certified in Firefighter 1 and as a Basic Vehicle Rescue technician. After completing an EMT course, she joined Upper Bucks Regional EMS where she has consistently volunteered on-duty at its Springfield Township station every week and is an invaluable crew member with her extensive background in emergency medicine.

In addition to responding to 911 calls for medical emergencies, she now also serves Upper Bucks Regional EMS as the volunteer coordinator and the vice president and secretary of the Board of Directors. As if this service to the community wasn't enough, she also volunteered to review funding applications for the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) in Montgomery County and brought that knowledge and experience back to benefit her local Fire and EMS community. In 2022, Vera Deacon volunteered more than 252.5 hours at Upper Bucks Regional EMS and is therefore awarded the President's Silver Volunteer Service Award on behalf of our Nation.

We are incredibly grateful for the positive impact Vera has had through her long career of public service, and we wish Vera countless blessings into the future.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF RICHARD H. DEDRICK

HON. MARCUS J. MOLINARO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 24, 2023

Mr. MOLINARO. Mr. Speaker. I rise today in remembrance of Richard H. Dedrick, a longtime friend and Tivoli neighbor who passed away on February 15 of this year.

Rich served his country honorably in the United States Air Force and was the Commander of Post 524 of the American Legion in Tivoli. His humor and wit lessened a debate and lightened the mood. Our service together in the village of Tivoli helped to make better the community and lives of those who called our corner of the world home.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues in the House join me in honoring the memory of Richard H. Dedrick. While we mourn his passing, we celebrate his life and the legacy he leaves behind. May his life and memory always be a blessing.

CELEBRATING 250 YEARS OF WESTMORELAND COUNTY

HON. GUY RESCHENTHALER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 24, 2023

Mr. RESCHENTHALER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate the 250th Anniversary of Westmoreland County, the history of its people and their service to Western Pennsylvania.

Westmoreland County was founded on February 26, 1773 through an Act of Assembly signed by Governor John Penn. While the British already maintained a presence in the region, Westmoreland was the first county to be founded west of the Allegheny Mountains and represented a new frontier for Pennsylvania. Westmoreland's people endured hardships when the county was sought by Virginia during Dunmore's War. The county seal at Hannastown was attacked and burned by American Indians in 1782. Three years later, the county seat was moved to Greensburg where it stands today.

This new frontier also played a role in testing the strength of our country's leadership during the Whiskey Rebellions, when farmers from Western Pennsylvania fought back against the first federal tax on spirits. What could have been a far bloodier conflict was handled fairly but firmly by President George Washington and Pennsylvania's leaders, proving to the world that America could handle its own disputes without resorting to tyranny.

Although neighboring Allegheny County was first formed from parts of Westmoreland, their economic lives have remained inseparable. Westmoreland's plentiful coal resources fueled Pittsburgh's revolutionary steel industry, leading to the formation of Carnegie Steel by Westmoreland County native Henry Clay Frick. Wages from those same steel plants helped to draw workers and feed families across the Allegheny River. Farmlands of Westmoreland helped provide eggs, oats, and alfalfa to the rest of the Nation for years, cementing the county as an essential arm of American industry.

Mr. Speaker, the story of Westmoreland County is uniquely American and important to Pennsylvania. You cannot tell the story of our country without speaking of the people who worked hard to turn a frontier county into an engine of American industry. On behalf of the people of Pennsylvania's 14th Congressional District, I congratulate the citizens of Westmoreland County on this remarkable milestone and look forward to building on this storied history over the next 250 years.

RECOGNIZING ARTHUR O. EVE, JR.

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 24, 2023

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to congratulate Arthur O. "Champ" Eve, Jr. on being recognized with the Erie County Democratic Committee's 2023 Joseph F. Crangle Legacy Award. This award rightfully acknowledges Champ's name as one of the great leaders of our party and commemorates his service to our community and the Democratic Party.